

Engineering Heritage Australia Bulletin: #34

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In this issue:

- An Engineer's Guide to the Conservation of Australia's Engineering Heritage
- Engineering Heritage Talk - 19 Oct 2023 - "Making It Here: Stories of Four Enterprising Immigrant Engineers"
- Engineering Heritage Australia Magazine
- Discovering the journey of Clyde Engineering - Online and in-person event (Sydney)
- WHS training for Engineers Australia Office Bearers and Volunteers – A reminder

An Engineer's Guide to the Conservation of Australia's Engineering Heritage

This recently released '*Engineer's Guide*' replaces the '*Engineering Heritage & Conservation Guidelines 2009*' document which was based on the Burra Charter. As the Burra Charter is focussed on immovable and tangible items (physical structures), the 2009 Guidelines document did not adequately recognise and provide guidance for intangible and movable engineering items.



The aim of this new Guide is to assist engineers, when working on either a built item or its intangible heritage, in assessing the significance of the item and its components; and in devising a course of action to achieve conservation of the significant elements of the item. It provides guidance to engineers working on all types of heritage, either individually or with other heritage professionals and custodians. While it respects the various principles and processes used by different heritage sectors (e.g., architects, museum curators and heritage regulators) it focuses on the special interest that engineers have in conserving our engineering and industrial knowledge.

The concept for this document was initiated by Peter Spratt and was further developed by a sub-committee of Engineering Heritage Australia (EHA) led by Bruce Cole. Other members were Neil Hogg, Dick Baird, Richard Muncey and Tony Moodie. The document is now an essential reference for the Engineering Heritage Recognition Program and for the Heritage Engineering courses jointly developed by Engineering Heritage Australia and the University of Canberra.

The document is available for download from the Engineers Australia website at <https://www.engineersaustralia.org.au/sites/default/files/2023-09/engineers-guide-conservation-australias-engineering-heritage.pdf>.

(From Mike Taylor on behalf of Eamonn Madden)

Engineering Heritage Talk - 19 Oct 2023 - "Making It Here: Stories of Four Enterprising Immigrant Engineers"

When: Thursday, 19 October 2023 @ 5:30 for 6:00 - 7:00 pm

Where: In person at the Drill Hall, 239 A'Beckett St, Melbourne 3000 or via ZOOM

Speaker: David Radcliffe

Please help promote this talk via any of your contacts, social media, etc.

Much has been written about the halcyon days of manufacturing in Fishermans Bend during the post-war period. This talk explores its antecedents through the lives of four, largely forgotten, engineers who made significant contributions to the rise of manufacturing there during the first half of the 20th century: Otto Schumacher, Alfred Harman, Albert Longoni and Fred David.

They learnt their craft in America, Britain, and Europe respectively before making their mark in Port Melbourne. Two founded manufacturing businesses here while the other two made pivotal contributions to existing firms. The innovative machines they designed and developed ranged from steam-powered winches and excavators to flour milling and food processing equipment, from large cranes and systems for handling bulk materials to designing an urgently needed fighter aircraft.

The talk aims to evoke a sense of what it means to engineer. The emphasis is on people and place as much as it is on technical matters. The story of each engineer includes their family background and formative years. Their engineering achievements are set against the prevailing social, cultural, and geopolitical context and major events in their personal life.

Although the locus of the stories is Port Melbourne encompassing Fishermans Bend, the matters covered, and the issues raised around manufacturing, are universal. Themes that run through the stories of these four engineers speak to education and industry policy today.

Speaker:

David Radcliffe is a Professor Emeritus at Purdue University where he was the head of the School of Engineering Education. A mechanical engineer, his scholarly interests over a forty-year career in Australia and the US centred on the nature of engineering as a profession, its history and practice, and how engineering knowledge and identity are formed. Since retiring, David has undertaken local history investigations in the Port Melbourne area. He published *Changing Fortunes* in 2021, a social history of a precinct within the suburb and has written articles on the engineering heritage of the district. His new book, *Making it Here*, is due for release later this year.

More details and bookings at:

<https://www.historyvictoria.org.au/event/making-it-here-stories-of-four-enterprising-immigrant-engineers/>

These engineering history talks are organised in conjunction with the Royal Historical Society of Victoria, at their premises, and are \$10 for members of EA, EHV or RHSV. [The activity may earn CPD points.]

(From Ken McInnes on behalf of EHV)

Engineering Heritage Australia Magazine

As announced in Bulletin # 32 dated 8 August, it was advised that the March 2023 edition of the Magazine was the last while EHA works on finding an alternative. The Magazine was an important part of EHA's overall communications strategy that is currently under review. In addition to the future of this Bulletin, EHA is reviewing how new options including an EHA LinkedIn page and/or greater use of the EA Xchange system at <https://eaxchange.engineersaustralia.org.au/discussion/eha-bulletin-33>, could contribute in a changing communications environment.

The March 2023 edition of the magazine was the last for now because, as announced in the Editorial, after 10 years and 30 editions our editor Margret Doring was retiring. We were fortunate that Margret and Carl were able to attend an EHA/EHV meeting in Melbourne on

29 August at which I was able to thank Margret, on behalf of the engineering heritage community, for an outstanding achievement in producing so many high-quality magazines and for the impressive contribution that Margret and Carl have made to heritage engineering in Australia. Margret and Carl were awarded EHA's John Monash medal in 2008 and a copy of their citation is available on the EHA website at [https://heritage.engineersaustralia.org.au/wiki/Awards - John Monash Medal](https://heritage.engineersaustralia.org.au/wiki/Awards_-_John_Monash_Medal).

The articles in the Magazine are a wonderful source of engineering heritage knowledge and experience and to ensure their continued availability they have been loaded to the EHA website at [https://heritage.engineersaustralia.org.au/wiki/EHA Magazine](https://heritage.engineersaustralia.org.au/wiki/EHA_Magazine).

To assist in access to these articles, the Table of Contents for each edition are included on this webpage so that a user can quickly find the article they are interested in.

If any readers have comments on what should be included in EHA's future communications, please send them to eha@engineersaustralia.org.au.

(By Mike Taylor, Chair EHA)

Discovering the journey of Clyde Engineering - Online and in-person event (Sydney)

Clyde Engineering was one of the iconic Australian engineering firms whose history spanned just over a century and was one of the few locomotive and rolling stock builders in the world that transitioned from steam to diesel to electric traction.

The company was a pioneer of Agile Manufacturing which was demonstrated by its ability to produce quality products for a diverse range of markets, this was especially demonstrated over its first 50 years which embraced an enormous range of domestic and industrial products. The approach used by the organisation is still valid today.

Refer below to the link for the upcoming presentation/webinar:

https://www.engineersaustralia.org.au/event/2023/09/discovering-journey-clyde-engineering-edb38d64?j=6223934&e=fshawash%40yahoo.com&l=114663_HTML&u=154138505&mid=7001827&jb=14001

(By Firas Shawash , from EA events page)

WHS training for Engineers Australia Office Bearers and Volunteers

A reminder that all office bearers are required to complete the compulsory EA WHS training by Thursday 19 October 2023. All office bearers should have received an email that includes all links and details. It would take 20-30 minutes to complete the training.

Please note that a certificate of completion will not be issued as it is only an acknowledgment of policies and procedures.

(By Firas Shawash)

Contributions needed

Readers are invited to share news, bright ideas, issues of concern, advice about online talks – anything that would be of interest and helpful to others, by sending them to editor Firas Shawash at fshawash@yahoo.com for inclusion in the next Bulletin - more Australia-wide content would be appreciated.

This Engineering Heritage Australia Bulletin is published by Engineers Australia's National Committee for Engineering Heritage. Statements made or opinions expressed in the Bulletin are those of the authors and do not necessarily reflect the views of Engineers Australia.